

ANNE MILGRAM
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
Division of Law, Fifth Floor
124 Halsey Street
P.O. Box 45029
Newark, New Jersey 07101

FILED WITH THE BOARD OF
PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS
ON November 10, 2008

By: Siobhan B. Krier
Deputy Attorney General
Tel. (973) 648-2478

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION OR	:	
REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF	:	Administrative Action
	:	
KENNETH R. LANGLIEB, PH.D.	:	COMPLAINT
LICENSE NO: 35SI00307300	:	
	:	
TO PRACTICE PSYCHOLOGY IN THE	:	
STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	

Anne Milgram, Attorney General of New Jersey, by Siobhan B. Krier, Deputy Attorney General, with offices located at 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey, by way of Complaint says:

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

1. Complainant Attorney General of New Jersey is charged with enforcing the laws of the State of New Jersey, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:17A-4, and is empowered to initiate administrative disciplinary proceedings against persons licensed by the State Board of Psychological Examiners pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-14 et

3073

seq.

2. The New Jersey State Board of Psychological Examiners ("Board") is charged with the duty and responsibility of regulating the practice of psychology in the State of New Jersey pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:14B-1 et seq. And N.J.S.A. 45:1-14 et seq.

3. Respondent, Kenneth R. Langlieb, Ph.D., is the holder of New Jersey License Number SI307300, having been licensed to practice psychology in the State of New Jersey in 1993.

4. Respondent holds a Masters Degree (M.A.) in counseling and human services from Montclair State College and a Doctorate (Ph.D.) in counseling and student services from Kansas State University. Respondent completed post-doctoral studies in multi-modal therapy at Rutgers University.

5. Respondent was providing psychological services at his private practice located at 60 East Ridgewood Avenue, Ridgewood, New Jersey at all relevant times hereto.

6. B.A. was a fifty-five year old female confined to a wheelchair since 1972, following an automobile accident, who has also been blind since 1999, following meningeal encephalitis.

COUNT I

7. Complainant repeats and incorporates by reference the General Allegations above as if set forth fully herein.

8. Respondent provided psychological treatment to B.A., a fifty-five year old female, from February 22, 2005 to June 8, 2005,

and again from April 18, 2006 to February 27, 2007.

9. During the course of treating B.A., Respondent engaged in conduct that deviated from the accepted standards of practice including, but not limited to:

a) Respondent practiced outside his area of competence in that he lacked sufficient training, experience or education to treat a patient with a history of multiple suicide attempts, including at least one attempt during course of Respondent's treatment of her;

b) Respondent failed to appropriately consult with B.A.'s other doctors when:

i. B.A. initially presented as a patient on medication, with a history of suicide attempts;

ii. B.A. was hospitalized in May of 2005, for another suicide attempt; and

iii. B.A. resumed treatment with Respondent in April of 2006, following a long break, during which time she suffered from a deep depression.

c) Respondent failed to detail in his records for B.A. how or if he explored the reasons for B.A.'s May 2005 suicide attempt.

d) Respondent lacked sufficient training in managing

B.A.'s infatuation and/or transference issues:

i. Respondent was aware of B.A.'s transference issues, but he engaged in conduct which exacerbated the situation, including taking her out for ice cream, giving her a book, allowing B.A. to touch his face, attending a meditation retreat also attended by his client and disclosing personal information about himself to B.A.;

ii. Respondent failed to consult with a colleague, B.A.'s treating psychiatrist or seek other supervision or guidance regarding B.A.'s persistent transference issues;

iii. Respondent failed to seek additional training in transference issues to understand his possible role in fostering same or to avail himself to more effective ways of addressing the occurrence, though he reported numerous female patients have been infatuated with him and his usual approach was ineffective with B.A.;

e) Respondent abandoned or neglected B.A. when he left town on two occasions while treating B.A. for a period of approximately one month in July of 2006 and again in December-January of 2007, without making reasonable arrangements for continuation or coverage of care;

f) Respondent abandoned or neglected B.A. when he terminated treatment of B.A. shortly after returning from a long absence on February 27, 2007, without offering to help B.A. find an

alternative source of assistance; and

g) Respondent failed to prepare and maintain B.A.'s client record, in that there are no contemporaneous session notes for sessions held on March 11, 2005 and January 30, 2007.

10. Respondent's conduct constitutes gross and repeated acts of negligence in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(c) and -(d), professional misconduct, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and a failure to prepare and maintain client records, in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:42-8.1, a failure to practice only within his area of competence, in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:42-10.4, abandonment and neglect of his client, in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:42-10.8, and thus a violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h).

COUNT II

11. Complainant repeats and incorporates by reference the General Allegations and Count I above as if fully set forth herein.

12. Over the course of treating B.A., Respondent engaged in inappropriate touching, sexual harassment and sexual contact with B.A., including but not limited to:

a) Respondent discussed his preferences regarding sexual positions with B.A.;

b) Respondent made an inappropriate remark to B.A. regarding a six-inch frozen pop on a stick;

c) Starting in or about September of 2006, Respondent began to hug B.A. at the end of each of their therapy sessions;

Respondent also began to disclose personal information about himself to B.A.;

d) On or about September 12, 2006, Respondent allowed B.A. to put her arm around his waist and lean her head against his stomach;

e) In or around September of 2006, Respondent sat on the floor across from B.A., with their legs folded in a yoga position, with their arms out-stretched and interlocked and their heads touching, so they could meditate;

f) On or about October 3, 2006, Respondent hugged B.A. at the beginning of their session and pulled her onto his lap and held her, hugging and rocking B.A. From then on, Respondent would lift B.A. out of her chair and hold her on his lap at every session. He would caress her clothed body and face with mutual thanking for the affection given;

g) In or about October of 2006, Respondent allowed B.A. to touch his hands, asking B.A. how that made her feel;

h) On or about December 19, 2006, prior to leaving for a month-long vacation, Respondent pulled B.A. on to his lap and reached under her blouse. Respondent touched the skin on B.A.'s back and stomach. He commented how soft her skin was and felt her scars. He touched each of B.A.'s vertebrae, asking her where sensation ceased. Respondent and B.A. kissed each other on the face and neck during this episode. B.A. touched his hair, which

Respondent said he liked. Respondent caressed B.A.'s clothed extremities.

i) On or about January 23, 2007, after Respondent returned from a long vacation, he asked B.A. if she had missed him and asked what did she think would happen now. Respondent lifted B.A. out of her chair and onto his lap, asking her how she was feeling. B.A. told Respondent she missed him and that she had fantasized about him sexually. With that, Respondent lifted his shirt and offered his chest to B.A. Respondent invited B.A. to touch his chest and she did. She kissed his chest and sucked his right breast. Respondent stroked and caressed B.A.'s clothed back, arms and legs. He kissed her face. Reaching down her sweater, he touched her breasts, commenting that they would be nice to kiss and suck. B.A. kissed Respondent's face and his lips for approximately 10 to 15 minutes.

13. Respondent's conduct constitutes professional misconduct, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e); a lack of good moral character, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:14B-14 and sexual misconduct, in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:42-10.9, thus constituting a violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h).

WHEREFORE, Complainant respectfully demands judgment as follows:

1. The suspension or revocation of the license issued to Respondent to practice psychology in the State of New Jersey.

2. Imposition of penalties for each separate unlawful act as set forth above.

3. Imposition of costs, including investigative costs, attorneys' fees, fees for expert and fact witness expenses and costs of hearing including transcripts.

4. Such other and further relief as the Board shall deem just and appropriate.

ANNE MILGRAM
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY

By: Siobhan B. Krier
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Deputy Attorney General

Dated: November 10, 2008